

## **Lakewood Community Relations Commission (LCRAC)**

Virtual Meeting November 12, 2020

Attendees: Camille Bragg, Neil Chavan, Rachel Donaldson, Melissa Garrett, Tracy Greenberg, Jon Gromek, Gwendolyn Holden-Seckers, Jasany Jenkins, Anastasia (Stacy) Loejos, Lise Stevens, Ella Sutcliffe, Walter Wright

Absent: Tariq Ata, Robin Beavers

Meeting called to order by Walter Wright (WW), Chair of LCRAC at 6:38 p.m.

### **1. Old Business**

- a. Minutes Approval: Corrections were suggested and applied to October 2020 minutes (meeting dates). Rachel Donaldson (RD) motioned to approve the revised minutes, Camille Bragg (CB) seconded the motion. All present approved.
- b. COVID-19 Update: Melissa Garrett (MG) said case numbers continue to increase; Gov. DeWine revised the mask order to include new compliance regulations for retailers, social gathering restrictions, with additional measures announced as necessary. Ella Sutcliffe (ES) queried LCRAC to develop ideas to encourage more cooperation among community members. Suggestions included a song contest and postings to social media accounts. Additional ideas may be sent to ES.

### **2. Community Outreach Survey Status Report and Next Steps**

Review and Discuss Draft: Jon Gromek (JG) noted that the current draft of the survey is in “good shape.” Discussion centered on dissemination of the survey to the community. The survey will be digitally distributed via links through email and social media and paper copies will be available at the library and for distribution to special populations who may not have easy access to email. JG will draft a short script that members may follow as they ask community sites and organizations for distribution participation assistance. Jasany Jenkins (JJ) also suggested adding local businesses such as hair salons as potential distribution points. JJ and JG also discussed adding a short answer section to elaborate on yes/no questions (i.e. Have you experienced or witnessed racism in Lakewood? Please describe it.) MG reminded LCRAC that the document should be shared with the Mayor and City Council before outreach attempts are made. JG will let MG know when the document is ready.

### **3. Anti-Racism Task Force**

JJ updated LCRAC on the status of the task force. Selections were made by the city council. MG said that once the selected members were notified the first meeting will be scheduled. JJ noted that although disappointed that the task force does not

currently have any Black males, she is working on being optimistic and recognizes that change can be slow. The initial duration of the task force is three years.

#### .4. Virtual Diversity Potluck 2021

JG initiated discussion of a downloadable PDF cookbook. It was suggested that since restaurants in the area may be struggling due to the effects of the pandemic, they may be willing to donate a recipe or coupon encouraging people to order take-out from local restaurants. LCRAC also enthusiastically discussed the idea of posting recipes and/or short instructional videos on social media channels. The recipes should reflect important traditions held by the individuals submitting the recipe, not necessarily specific to any country or region. Stacy Loejos (SL) suggested publicly sharing a Spotify playlist. Since many local restaurants that are usually contacted for this event have been stressed due to the pandemic restrictions, JJ and ES suggested contacting larger businesses in Lakewood that have done well in the pandemic to ask for donations and sponsorship.

#### 5. 2019 & 2020 Annual Report to City

Tracy Greenberg (TG) reported on current progress that she and Lise Stevens (LS) have made. LS prepared a presentation with relevant information pulled from previous agendas and minutes. LCRAC will present a report for the years 2019 and 2020. TG will finalize the presentation as a short document. LS may add photos or graphics. TG asked for MG's assistance in helping LCRAC add the document to the City Council's docket. WW suggested that the document should be presented at the beginning of 2021. TG and LS expect to have the document ready for review at the next scheduled LCRAC meeting.

#### 6. Announcements

SL mentioned that The Refugee Response is currently seeking members for a new Community Advisory Board. TG informed LCRAC of a community organization (Lakewood Community Service Center) "success story." CB asked if and how LCRAC could address some issues dealing with homelessness in Lakewood.

#### 7. Adjournment

LS motioned to adjourn; ES seconded the motion. WW adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

#### Upcoming LCRAC Meetings:

December 10, 2020

January 14, 2021

February 11, 2021

Minutes prepared by GHS